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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Polish Administered Germany

SUBJECT Propaganda Campaigns Among the Lusatian Sorbs

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1. The Sorbs (Wends) of Upper and Lower Lusatia are being subjected simultaneously to a number of propaganda campaigns, some of them nationalistic and some of foreign inspiration. These highly divergent campaigns are suggesting the following courses to the Sorbs:
 - a. that a completely free and autonomous Lusatian Sorb state be demanded immediately,
 - b. that the Lusatian Sorb area be made a United Nations mandate,
 - c. that the area be made either a Czechoslovak or a Polish protectorate,
 - d. that the area be placed under a joint Czechoslovak-Polish administration,
 - e. that Lusatia be annexed outright by Czechoslovakia,
 - f. that Lusatia be annexed outright by Poland,
 - g. that the Sorbs be evacuated from the area and resettled either in Poland or the Czechoslovak regions formerly occupied by the Sudeten Germans.
- All the above proposals, however dissimilar, agree that the Sorbs must be removed from German control.
2. The Polish propagandists are determined to see that the Sorb question does not become an exclusively Czechoslovak affair. They are aware that the Czechoslovaks have a better ethnic

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claim to the area and that the Sorbs are more sympathetic to Czechoslovakia. Consequently, the Poles are backing the demand for outright Sorb independence rather than for annexation by Poland. In this plan, they appear already to have some support from Yugoslavia.

3. Some months ago a memorandum on the Sorb question was sent to the Polish National Assembly by joint action from the Cracow Union of Friends of the Lusatian Sorbs, the Slavic Committee in Poland, the Society for Polish-Soviet Friendship, the Polish-Bulgarian Society, the Polish-Yugoslav Society, and the Polish-Czechoslovak Society. This memorandum, after reiterating that a quarter of a million Slavs who had resisted Germanization for fifteen centuries were still a part of Germany, requested that the Assembly take the following steps: demand autonomy for the Sorbs; obtain the right for Poland to maintain in Bautzen a certain number of special representatives to work for a closer cooperation between Lusatia and Poland; demand admission of Lusatia into the UN; interest all Slavic nations, and especially the USSR, in the welfare of the Sorbs.
4. As a result of the memorandum, an energetic propaganda campaign was launched in Poland. Lectures and travel films on Lusatia were presented and numerous newspapers gave considerable space to the movement. The Zwiazek press in Poznan widely publicized an 80-page brochure by Professor Stelmachowski, entitled "Luzycan Wolnosc" (Freedom for the "ends").
5. However, the National Assembly has so far taken no definite action on the Sorb question, and most Poles do not appear to be showing any great amount of interest in the fate of their "Slav brothers in the West". Even prominent political and governmental figures have publicly stated that Poland's present task is to maintain a hold on the areas already annexed from Germany rather than to try to enlarge those areas.

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